

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 OMB-01
TRSY-02 AID-05 /133 W
-----100157 282311Z /15

R 282255Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0855
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, UNESCO
SUBJECT: UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD: ITEM 3.3:
STRENGTHENING UNESCO'S HUMAN RIGHTS
PROCEDURES

REF: PARIS 13541

1. PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY THE EIGHT BOARD MEMBERS
WHO FOLLOWED U.S. PERMREP'S LEAD IN SPEAKING TO THIS
SUBJECT FOLLOWING CONSENSUS ADOPTION OF NEW HUMAN
RIGHTS PROCEDURES WERE LARGELY PREDICTABLE BUT WORTH
NOTING FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. WHAT WAS MILDLY SUR-
PRISING, HOWEVER, WAS RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF
MEMBERS THAT CHOSE TO COMMEMORATE WHAT U.S. PERMREP
CALLED "MILESTONE" EVENT THAT PLACED UNESCO WHERE IT
BELONGED--IN VANGUARD OF U.N. SYSTEM IN RELATION TO
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ONE GETS IMPRESSION IN
UNESCO FORUM THAT 20TH CENTURY ATTITUDES TOWARD HUMAN
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RIGHTS ARE RATHER LIKE 19TH CENTURY ATTITUDES TOWARD
SEX: HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE NECESSARY,
POSSIBLY DESIRABLE BUT, WITHAL, RATHER EMBARRASSING.

2. SEVERAL MEMBERS, INCLUDING CARNEIRO (BRAZIL) AND
KOUTAKOV (USSR), STRESSED THAT FULL COMMITTEE ON
CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN EDUCATION

(SOON TO LOSE LAST TWO WORDS IN TITLE TO REFLECT ITS BROAD MANDATE FOR ALL OF UNESCO'S AREAS OF COMPETENCE), AND NOT A SUB-COMMITTEE, SHOULD DECIDE ON ADMISSIBILITY. BY CONTRAST, GARBO (COMMITTEE'S NORWEGIAN CHAIRMAN) SIAD THIS ISSUE HAD STILL TO BE DECIDED BUT THAT IN ANY CASE THE NEW PROCEDURES WOULD CREATE A GREATLY INCREASED WORKLOAD FOR THE 15-MEMBER COMMITTEE. THIS FACT WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY BOARD IN REVIEWING THE SIZE OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE NUMBER, LENGTH AND TIMING OF ITS MEETINGS, PRIOR TO ITS RECONSTITUTION BY THE BRIEF BOARD SESSION FOLLOWING THE GENERAL CONFERENCE THIS FALL. (COMMENT: MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMITTEE, ON WHICH U.S. HAS NOT BEEN REPRESENTED FOR MANY YEARS, SHOULD BE A MAJOR GOAL FOR US THIS FALL. IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG U.S. PRESENCE ON COMMITTEE IS UNDERSCORED BY SEPTEL REPORTING SOVIET SUCCESS IN MANIPULATING IT, AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, IN ABSENCE OF ANY REAL OPPOSITION.)

3. KUTAKOV SAID THAT PERMITTING INDIVIDUALS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS TO BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH UNESCO IMPOSED A SPECIAL OBLIGATION ON COMMITTEE TO SATISFY ITSELF THAT COMPLAINTS HAD LEGITIMATE AND CREDIBLE SPONSORSHIP. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED, AS DID VALERY (FRANCE), SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENCE OF STATES AND REQUISITE

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NON-TRIBUNAL CHARACTER OF COMMITTEE. VALERY LINKED THIS POINT WITH FRANCE'S CONCERN WITH IMPORTANCE OF EXHAUSTING LOCAL REMEDIES, WHICH WAS SUBJECT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT FRANCE ONLY RELUCTANTLY AGREED NOT TO PRESS BEFORE CONSENSUS ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES.

4. BOTH GARBO AND GOPAL (INDIA) WARNED THAT EFFECTIVENESS OF NEW PROCEDURES DEPENDED ON MEMBER STATES' WILLINGNESS TO EMPLOY THEM--AND ESPECIALLY THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW THEIR NATIONALS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS TO UNESCO. LATTER WAS "OBVIOUS PRECONDITION" FOR SUCCESS OF PROCEDURES.

5. LIPATTI (ROMANIA), AFTER COMMENDING PROCEDURES FOR THEIR "CLARITY, ACCURACY AND BALANCE", CHARACTERIZED WORKING PARTY'S SUCCESS IN REACHING AGREEMENT BY CONSENSUS AS "GOOD OMEN FOR FUTURE" AND URGED THAT COMMITTEE ALWAYS USE IT IN REACHING ITS DECISIONS.

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6. PRC DELEGATION POINTED OUT THAT CHINA HAD NOT BEEN MEMBER OF WORKING PARTY AND THEREFORE COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN BOARD'S CONSENSUS.

7. PERMDEL RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE EARLY STEPS TO FIRM UP A POSITION THAT U.S. WILL SEEK MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEE AT 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE.
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